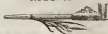


GUACANAGARI	PONTIAC	BLACK HAWK
MONTZUMA	CAPTAIN PIPE	KEOKUK
QUATIMOTZIN	LOGAN	SACAGAWEA
POWHIATAN	CORNPLANTER	BENITO JUAREZ
POCAHONTAS	JOSEPH BRANT	MANGUS
SAMOSET	RED JACKET	COLORADAS
MASSASOIT	LITTLE TURTLE	LITTLE CROW
KING PHILIP	TECUMSEH	SITTING BULL
UNCAS	OSCEOLA	CHIEF JOSEPH
TEDYUSKUNG	SEQUOYA	GERONIMO
	SHABONEE	



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The Political Condition of the Indians

—AND THE—

**RESOURCES OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY**

By J. H. MOORE.

ST. LOUIS:  
SOUTHWESTERN BOOK AND PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
510 AND 512 WASHINGTON AVENUE.  
1874.







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## P R E F A C E .

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In the preparation of this little book for the public, I have recognized the demands of the age for short essays, and have avoided lengthy description, and, as far as possible, technicalities, my aim being merely to give a plain account of the resources of the Indian Territory in as concise a manner as possible.

The views presented in the introductory chapter are gathered from personal observation, made during a residence of thirteen years in the Territory. They may be unpleasant to some of the Indian people, yet they cannot gainsay their truth, and those of them who know me, know that my life-interest is indissolubly connected with the Indian race by stronger ties than mere residence, and that these ties preclude sinister motives.

I would see the Indian race ennobled—I would see them reach a higher civilization, and freed from the tyranny of a base prejudice. These are the motives which have induced me to write these pages, in hope that the truths which they unfold will apprise them of their duty as a people, and show them that they have resources which, if developed, will make the land to “bloom and blossom as the rose.”

J. H. MOORE.

BOGGY DEPOT, C. N., March 2, 1874.



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## POLITICAL CONDITION OF THE INDIANS

# And the Resources of the Indian Territory.

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## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

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The Indian Territory is not unknown, in name or geographical situation, to the merest schoolboy, yet further than this, to the generality of people, it may not be inaptly styled a *Terra Incognita*. To those who have watched the public press for the last few years it is certainly so, for though much has been written descriptive of its topography and the character of its people, no two accounts have been corroborative. Like the shield of the two knights, it has been viewed from opposite sides, and the coloring has been different.

It is well known that, from the earliest advent of the white race upon the American continent, the Indian has gradually retreated before its march, till only a scattered few remain of that number which tradition says was as countless as the leaves of the forest. But it is not the object of the author in this little book to give a history of these peculiar people—to follow them in their various wanderings—to recite their savage atrocities, or to whimper over their imaginary wrongs; but to give, in a clear and concise way, a description of their country, its undeveloped resources, and the causes which have operated upon the Indians as a people, delaying their advancement, and prompting them to war upon civilization. The policy of the General Government at all times has neither

been humane nor philosophical, but tolerating their primitive customs at one time and chiding at another. A false philanthropy has dictated a political policy which is in nowise practicable, even were it expedient. The Indian question, while it has ever had a department in the Government, has vacillated between the extremes of nefarious rapacity and injudicious forbearance. It has had to do with the Indians of the Plains as well as the civilized tribes, and has made very little distinction between the two, the same principles having governed each; and the result is, that the more they have been encouraged in old customs the more formidable have they become as obstructions in the way of progression. They have been brought to a degree of civilization and left there, with the idea that they are a peculiar people, and that the civilization of the whites, and intercourse with them, are dangerous to their tribal nationalities. The old custom of holding lands in common is still in vogue, and any attempt at division and individualizing is used as being prejudicial rather than beneficial to the interest of the Indians. The worst feature, however, connected with the Indian business is their claims against the Government, and their invested funds held in trust by the Interior Department, the interest on which is paid annually for the maintenance of their governments. These make food for attorneys and claim agents, who congregate at Washington for no other purpose than to swindle them out of at least half of their money. These hints will do for a general understanding of the Indian question; and we will begin with the Indian Territory proper, which comprises all that region of country lying south of Kansas, west of Arkansas, north of Texas, and east of the one hundredth meridian, and is inhabited by the five great Southern tribes of Indians, known as the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, together with remnants of Northern tribes who have moved into the country from Kansas and other States in conformity with treaty stipulations; and to these may be added the predatory tribes, native to the country—viz.: Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, etc. Its area is about ninety-five thousand square miles, with a population, at a fair estimate, of one hundred thousand. Its geographical

position, when viewed from a stand-point of distance, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, is very nearly central; and when we compare the immense area of the State of Texas with that of States lying north, its relative position from north to south will be about midway between the Gulf of Mexico and British America.

When the termini of railways were reaching West only to such cities as St. Louis and Memphis, and the East and the South were the trade marts, the great unproducing West beyond the Mississippi was hardly considered a component of the Union, and was scarcely known, save to army officers and hardy pioneers. The old mode of traveling by wagon peopled the country slowly, consequently the domain of the Indian was not encroached upon very rapidly; but now that the railway system has been extended to the Pacific coast, and branch roads are traversing in every direction the States and Territories of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico, the barrier of distance has been removed, and the once "Far West" is fast being peopled, and becoming the commercial centre of the continent; and while the Indian country has not been encroached upon to any considerable extent, on account of the fostering care of the General Government, it has been viewed with a jealous and covetous eye, and several attempts have been made to induce Congress to open it for settlement, regardless of the wishes of the Indians; and as it is more than probable that such a thing will be done at no distant time, it is fitting that its natural resources should be laid before the public.

The resources of the American Continent are, as it were, but in embryo of development. Stretching away in the distance are the vast plains and forests of the West, still clothed with the garb of primeval nature, holding the substance of crude material, which only needs the appliances of art to call into being untold millions of wealth; and not the least conspicuous of all this rich and beautiful country, which will one day be the cornucopia of America, standing in the pathway of civilization and progress, as some vast tidal wave, echoing the

interdict of, "*Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further,*" lies the Indian Territory,

#### THE POLITICAL STATUS

of which, in relation to the United States, is that of a protégé; yet, by treaty stipulation, enjoying all the privileges of a semi-sovereignty, with the addition of pecuniary support.

The continuance of these relations, however, under the system of national or tribal isolation, is hardly probable. Already it is the fixed purpose of the General Government to make no more treaties with Indians, and the gradual extension of the revenue laws over them, and the transit of railways through their country, foretell the events of the future.

It was thought necessary in times gone by that absolute protective measures should be inaugurated for the Indians, and in view of this suggestion Congress passed

#### THE INTERCOURSE LAW,

which forbade traffic by the whites with Indians, under heavy penalties, except as licensed traders, and this law, with its several amendments, is still in existence; but, instead of redounding to the good of the Indians, as was, perhaps, the honest intention of those who framed it, it has served, in two ways, as the cause of all their troubles and wrongs. In the first place, its interdictions to intercourse with the whites has served as the great groundwork upon which the Indians themselves have founded their own local laws, which are, in a high degree, prejudicial to the white race, thus fostering and perpetuating that Ishmaelitish spirit which has so long characterized them as a people; and though each of the civilized tribes have a well-filled statute, it is inoperative, or, as expressed in a vulgarism, a dead letter, except in so far as it applies to prohibitions.

The second of its evil effects resulted from the establishment of the United States District Court at Van Buren, and subsequently at Fort Smith, Arkansas, which has been made, through deputy-marshals and attorneys, to deal largely in *pettifoggery*. Taking advantage of the isolated condition of the country, they have preyed alike upon Indians and upon

citizens of the United States, which was all the more easily done because from the criminal side of that court there is no appeal, and as every violation of the Intercourse Law is criminal, as a matter of course, every petty offence, which would not have been an offence committed out of the Indian country, has afforded them food for speculation. The following editorial, taken from the Fort Smith *Herald* of November 1, 1873, will partly explain some of these evils :

"We published last week a letter from the Washington correspondent of the New York *Sun*, purporting to give the result of the investigation made here last summer by Mr. Whitney, of the Secret Service department of the United States treasury—a department unknown in the days of honest and pure governments.

"For several years past, and particularly for the last two years, the affairs of this district have been wretchedly managed. Immense sums of money have been expended by the marshals—more than in any other judicial district in the United States—and yet the public have been but little benefited. Since the court has been located here the circulation of money has not been increased to any appreciable extent, although \$20,000 or more were spent to carry the last election.

"The last November term of the court collected in town a very large number of persons as parties, witnesses and jurors ; the court was in session from November to February, and there was no money paid out—marshal's checks were the only pay received. These depreciated to about thirty cents on the dollar, and are yet unredeemed. The boarding-house-keepers who fed the crowd brought hither by the court were compelled to receive these checks, and the consequence is, that what ought to have been a means of wealth to the town tended actually to impoverish it. That there have been gross mismanagement and corruption cannot be doubted. The Treasury department has sent an agent here to examine into the matter. He has taken the testimony of a great number of witnesses, and made his report to the Attorney-General. The correspondent above mentioned states that he has reported that marshals, deputy-marshals and district-attorneys have been guilty of forgery, bribery, and screening of criminals.

\* \* \* \* \*

"It is to be hoped that Whitney's investigations here will lead to the exposure and punishment of those who are guilty.

"We want a court here ; it is necessary to have it for the

punishment of offenders and the execution of the laws. But to be effective it must command the respect and confidence of the people. It should be pure. We are sorry to say that the court has attracted attention throughout the country by the continual complaints and charges made against it. A thorough ventilation of the whole concern is needed, and all guilty of the corruptions, peculations and frauds charged to exist should be summarily punished. This is an absolute necessity for the honor of the Government.

"Vouchers issued by the Court Commissioners to witnesses and jurors are hawked about the streets and cannot find purchasers at thirty cents on the dollar; and yet over a quarter of a million of dollars is said to be expended here annually by the Marshal's office.

"We shall look forward impatiently for the report of Mr. Whitney, and shall insist upon the punishment of the guilty; but in the meantime we should have no vague generalities, which censure innocent and guilty alike.

"A court which does not have the respect or confidence of the people, and is under the censure of Congress, should be looked after."

It should be remembered, in connection with this extract, that while no specification of cases is made, the bulk of the business of this court arises from crime committed in the Territory, or rather, we should have said, petty offences, for those deserving the charge of crime are too often allowed to go unpunished.

Such have been the wrongs which have grown out of a misdirected philanthropy for Indian Governments, a riddance of which is only to be looked for in the happy time when the laws of Congress shall have taken precedence of tribal governments.

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Perhaps no subject which has engrossed the attention of Christian Societies has been so prolific of sympathy as that which relates to the rights and wrongs of the Indian people. Certainly there is no field of broader area where Christian sympathy and work is more needed; yet it is questionable whether this very sympathy, in the spirit in which it has been expressed, has not retarded in a great degree the civilization of the Indians.

The Indians have two kinds of civilization to undergo—one religious, the other political; and as there is no medium ground allowable to the first, there should be none to the latter. The existence of one is dependent upon the other, for religious freedom is nothing more nor less than political freedom, and *vice versa*; yet the disposition is to pander the religious to the whims and prejudices of old customs, which savor more of barbarism than of civilization; and those Societies which have acted in accord with what is known as the "Peace Policy," under the direction of the Indian Department, have had a tendency to encourage rather than to dissipate the antipathy toward the white race. Actuated with a spirit of fanaticism, or a false conception of Indian character, they have endeavored to establish a government for Indians upon theory instead of common sense. Experiment after experiment is suggested and tried, and in every instance fails, because incompatible with the true principles of stability, or, in other words, they are ever in a chrysalis state, without the prospect of further development. This difficulty is fully realized and fairly acknowledged by the Indians themselves, by a committee of ten, authorized and appointed by the Okmulgee General Council, "*To devise a permanent organization of the Indian Territory, as contemplated by the treaties of 1866.*"

The committee says:

"The opposition of all Indians to any form of territorial government that has been proposed by the Congress of the United States, is too notorious to require any comment. It is firmly and ineradicably imbedded in their very nature. They cling to their homes, to their laws, to their customs, to their national and personal independence, with the tenacity of life itself. In these sentiments your committee fully concur. And while the leading powers invested in this General Council pervade all the treaties negotiated in 1866 by the United States with the different nations here represented, each one of them grants some important concession, or retains some important right not to be found in others. In some respects they merely shadow dimly the duties of this Council, instead of clearly defining its powers and authority. The responsibility of inexperienced legislators, instead of being simplified by them, is made more difficult and complex."—*Journal of the General Council* [Printed Edition], 1871, page 23.

Here we see that this very policy, which resolves itself merely into a question of isolation or independence, becomes to the Indians, what it does to others, a political enigma; yet, with all the lessons of the past, it has been, that when a religious society has taken charge of an Indian tribe to promote its civilization, as a political measure, the pandering to old customs begins, and every idea of a government is conceived antagonistic to the Constitution of the United States, and the result is, that by the establishment of these petty independencies the Indians are impressed more and more with principles of alienation. The author has no motive in making these assertions other than a convincing one—that they are entailing political incompatibilities upon the Indian race, which, when innovated upon, culminate in Modoc tragedies; and he wars not upon the moral, but upon that procedure of the Indian policy which the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his Report for 1872, is pleased to style, “A policy—not a policy—only temporizing.” Considering moral suasion, and having due respect to all its higher attributes, fault is only found with its inconsistency as it relates to the political management of tribes. It proposes the organization of a form of government which, though it claims to be a pattern after the Constitution of the United States, is in its every letter incompatible therewith; yet the great point or aim is to prepare them for it as the ultimatum. We do not enhance a child’s idea of language by fondling it with nursery talk, nor can it be expected that, by other than a perfect system, the Indian will have due conception of those moral attributes which will come of a proper course of civilization; for when, upon the induction of different customs and manners, we pander them to the relics of barbarism, they fail of that salutary influence which was the first objective intent. Nowhere within the vocabulary of national politics do we find such a variance of opinion on any one subject as exists in different circles pertaining to this Indian question, yet none so easy of solution when we narrow it down to Congressional legislation. Of the many propositions to modify the Indian question, or in some way extricate the government from the dilemma which now envelopes it, the author



has seen nothing more singularly absurd than what purports to be a recommendation to Congress by the present Commissioner, explained in the following editorial from the *New York Mercantile Journal*, of November 29, 1873:

"INDIAN CITIZENSHIP.—The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has made an excellent suggestion in recommending to Congress that individual Indians shall be allowed to become citizens of the United States, with all the rights and privileges and immunities pertaining to citizenship. The custom has been to require the assent of the tribe before any member of it could be naturalized, but this operates directly to place the more civilized under the control of the less advanced. Any one Indian who may desire to make himself a citizen should be at liberty to do so; and the Commissioner thinks that many, if naturalized, would enter into farming, grazing, or mining enterprises. But the Canadian method of dealing with Indians is far better. They are recognized and treated as citizens—as men and women belonging to and forming a part of the community—not as foreigners or outlaws. If an Indian wrongs a white man, he is punished; if a white man wrongs an Indian, he is punished. Both are tried by the same court and judged by the same law; and the result of the treatment is that a Canadian can ride from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Pacific Ocean without feeling himself in danger from an aborigine. When we come in this country to recognize in the Indians men and brethren, and to administer for them the same justice we exact from them, we shall have very little trouble with them."

Why prevaricate at all? Why not adopt at once the "Canadian method?" Why not recognize that it is the conflict of power, not of race, that has given the question its bloody record? It may be all very well to talk of Indian nationalities and to theorize on constitutions which will best accord with their nature, but the line of demarcation must be broad and strong that shall give them peace and harmony.

#### DELEGATES TO WASHINGTON.

The system inaugurated many years ago, of sending delegates to Washington, is still kept up by most of the tribes, and is a continual drain upon the national treasuries, without yielding good results. The people at home are generally ignorant of what these delegates are doing, and it is not until the

annual meeting of their councils that their business is made known. Then appear those glowing accounts of a successful mission, the good results of which, however, are always to be realized in the future. These fine reports are gotten up by their several attorneys, and serve as means to dupe the poor ignorant Indians at home, about whom they make so much ado, and in whose interest they labor so zealously when abroad. These delegates oppose every progressive move, such as sectionizing and division of lands, yet they offer no other mode of progression to their poor, benighted countrymen, and the civilization of the full-blood Indian is the same to-day that it was sixty years ago. Nothing more miserable could be imagined than the destitute condition of the mass of the full-bloods; yet when any means is proposed for their advancement, those of their own people, who hold petty offices and play delegate, raise the howl of persecution and speculation, and charge the move to railroad corporations, and this is echoed back again by Humanitarian Societies in the East. These societies, however, have been imposed upon, and if they would know the actual state of affairs in this country, they should send out a trustworthy committee upon whose report they can rely. In the meantime, as corroborative of the above statements, let them examine a report made to the Forty-second Congress, by Gen. J. P. C. Shanks, congressman from Indiana, and chairman of a committee authorized to investigate Indian frauds. Herein lies the great wall of obstruction to the further progress of the Indian people, as it is the policy of both delegates and attorneys to keep the mass of the people in ignorance; and managing to keep them in *statu quo*, they are ever ready with their bulky memorials to cite parts of obsolete treaties, and to appeal to humanity, when there is a sensible move in Congress to give them a better form of government. Of the vast amounts appropriated by Congress in satisfaction of these claims, the lawyers and delegates get the lion's share, and sometimes the whole amount, as is instanced in an award to the Choctaws in 1860, by the Senate, of \$500,000, in part payment of their *net proceeds claim*, involving the sum of \$2,332,560 85. Of this \$500,000 appropriated, one-half was

to be in United States bonds and one-half in money. The bonds were never issued, but the money half was paid in gold, and the delegates and attorneys got it all, not one cent ever reaching the proper owners. The remainder due under this claim is still before Congress for appropriation, and is claimed by two separate sets of delegates and attorneys.

Commissioner Walker, in his report for 1872, page 12, under a sub-head entitled, "The Practical Side of the Indian Question," referring to the passage of claims and appropriations, remarks:

"I know of no stronger proof that could be offered for the satisfaction of the country that the Indian policy of the government, notwithstanding so much about it that appears whimsical and contradictory, is really to be justified on common-sense principles, than the fact that for several years bills making appropriations for the necessarily heavy expenditures involved, have run the gauntlet of the appropriation committees of both House and Senate, without losing a single original feature of value. No one who understands the constitution of those committees, and knows their readiness to slaughter any provision for any service which cannot give an unmistakable reason for itself, will need stronger assurance than when the details of the Indian policy come to be explained, point by point, to men versed in public affairs and in the methods of business, they are found to be based upon good practical reasons, and not upon theories or sentiments."

The Commissioner seems to be very innocent in his exultation over the *bills* which he refers to as passing "without losing a single original feature of value;" but, perhaps, he was not aware of having been the dupe of some "ring," who pocketed the money after its appropriation. The Indian business, however, may be purer now than in *ante-bellum* times, *as are the other departments of the government*. As a criterion of how it was carried on in 1856-57-58, we extract a few letters, written by a prominent claim agent of Washington city, from the *addenda* to a memorial by Albert Pike, to the Choctaw Council, bearing date October 1, 1869:

WASHINGTON, October 2, 1856.

*Dear Sir:* I have no information yet from General Cooper as to the time I should be in the Choctaw Nation, though I

feel sure he must be now in New Orleans, or well on his way there, to get the funds. For particular reasons, I know I must be at the agency some little time prior to the 1st proximo. I have, therefore, but a brief period before starting; so that if I put off longer the fulfilment of my promise to write and let you know when I shall be in Little Rock, it would be useless to write at all, as I should reach there as soon as a letter. I have no doubt of hearing from General Cooper immediately on his arrival at New Orleans, probably to-morrow or next day; and my calculation is to start in time to reach the Rock by about the middle of the month, at farthest, by which time, I presume, you will certainly be there.

Before leaving here you kindly offered me a seat in your carriage out to the Nation. You then expected to go out for Lea, but as it has become absolutely necessary for him to go out himself—and he is going—of course there will be no occasion for you to go. As a matter of policy and prudence, I had concluded not to accept your invitation. Our going together would attract attention; it would be speculated on, and probably be reported or become known here, and confirm such allegations as those in Gardner's letter. Mischievous would certainly be the result. It might affect not only the Choctaw business, but also the Creek. It would be concluded, of course, that we are associated in the Choctaw business, and, if in that, in the Creek also. This may seem rather far-fetched to you, but if you were as familiar as I am in the tortuosities of mischief-makers in Indian matters, it would not. Once let there be some plausible ground for a conclusion or even suspicion that we are at the bottom of the Choctaw and Creek business, and every effort would be made to head us off in both. The plan is to manage all these matters as unpretendingly and quietly, as slyly, if you please, as possible. Hence, although it is highly desirable to Lea, especially on account of his physical disability, to go out with me, I will not consent to it. We must go separately, at different times, and by different routes, at least from here. I shall go alone, *though it may happen accidentally that Pitchlynn will be going about the same time. I am going to northeastern Texas, where a brother-in-law of mine owns some lands that want looking after, though I have business that will probably take me into the Choctaw country.*

I take it for granted, it was only on account of Lea's business you thought of going to the Choctaw country, and not with reference to the Choctaw business. I presume there can be no misunderstanding between us in regard to that. In the only conversations between us as to our relations in it—when

you wanted to know whether I considered you had any interest in it—I readily assented, notwithstanding all that had been accomplished without you, that you should have an interest in it equal to my own, whatever that might finally be; it being my understanding, and I suppose, of course, yours, that you should aid and assist in getting it through; but I excepted that already accomplished, viz., the \$400,000 claim, which was started by neither of us, which you did not assist in at all, and I only in part, and the interest in which, as I told you, I did not consider I had the right to control. In regard to that I told you I could make no promise; but whatever others having the best right to decide were willing to, I was. Frankly, under all the circumstances of the case, I do not think you have a just claim to participate in it; but if, from our original association in the business, and of a reliance by you on me to conduct the business in your absence (though that very absence rendered it necessary to bring others in, and thus diminish the profits), if for these or other reasons you think differently, just make me out a memorandum of your views on the subject, which I can have when I reach the Rock, and I will bring it forward for consideration when the relative rights of all the parties concerned come to be determined on. For myself, I want to do not only what is just and right, but what is liberal toward you.

Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you at the Rock, I remain,

Very respectfully, your friend and obedient servant,

J. T. COCHRANE.

Capt. A. PIKE, Little Rock, Arkansas.

FORT TOWSON, November, 18, 1856.

*Dear Sir:* I have succeeded in getting my business arranged, after greater delay and difficulty than I imagined. I had opposition, which was at one time formidable, and in order to overcome it and make all things right and smooth, for the present and future both, I have had to incur heavier expenses than I anticipated. The consequence is, that the dividend is considerably reduced. For your share I inclose two certificates of deposit, \$5,000 each (\$10,000), of the Southern Bank at New Orleans, in favor of Heald, Massie & Co., and indorsed by them, and numbered 155 and 156. In order to arrange to get this exchange there had to be an understanding that these certificates would not be presented till the expiration of sixty days from date—not before the 12th proximo. Please arrange accordingly. The amount I remit is a full and equal share,

except in one case—viz., the person who originated the claim to lands west of 100°, and who claimed and contended for the lion's share, which, in order to avoid unpleasant controversy and difficulty, I conceded. I trust you will be satisfied, as, with the exception of that case, you stand upon an equal footing with the other distributees. Please acknowledge receipt of inclosed to me at Georgetown, District of Columbia, as I start for home to-morrow. I go by Gaines' Landing, and shall carry this with me and mail it at Washington, Arkansas.

I have learned from a Choctaw, residing near Tuckahatchee, where the Creeks held their council, that they have voted your fee on \$800,000, viz., \$200,000. Though I am not anxious about it, I would like to know how much I will probably realize out of it, if you can make any calculation. I presume it will not be necessary for me to come out to aid you in collecting or to receive my share. I hope you will be in Washington to aid us with the big Choctaw claim.

Yours, truly and faithfully,

J. T. COCHRANE.

A. PIKE, Esq., Little Rock, Arkansas.

WASHINGTON, December, 30, 1857.

*Dear Sir:* \* \* \* \* \*

Nothing doing in Choctaw matters. We are waiting for Luce, who has not yet arrived, and who you know has now the control of the business, it being absolutely necessary for both you and myself to keep in the background. There may not, therefore, be any necessity for your being here for some time yet. As soon as there is I will let you know.

Very respectfully your friend and obedient servant,

J. T. COCHRANE.

A. PIKE, Esq.

WASHINGTON, January 18, 1858.

*Dear Sir:* Yours of the 4th instant was duly received, and I did not immediately reply to it because I had anticipated your inquiry about coming here, in a letter which ought to have reached you before Major Rector left New Orleans. I regret that it did not, as it contained reasons why I yet wished him to modify his special report respecting the Creek and Seminole payments, and a request that you would speak to him on the subject, if you thought proper. The Major arrived here only yesterday. I have said nothing to him in regard to the matter, and feel a delicacy in doing so after his positive refusal to comply with my request in writing.

Not a step has been taken in the Choctaw business yet. I

am waiting for Luce, who ought to have been here weeks ago, as he promised. For prudential reasons, as I explained to you, I transferred the formal management of the matter to him. It is known that I have already collected a considerable amount from the Choctaws, and you from the Creeks. There are persons watching the Choctaw matter, and if you or myself appear prominent in it, the large sums we have collected will be referred to, and our connection with it used to prejudice it. Hence it was better to have a fresh man to take the lead. Another reason for selecting Luce was that I wished it to come up as a sort of Arkansas matter, with which no one in particular was connected—no claim-agent; and that Luce, as an Arkansas man and a friend of Sebastian's, being here on other business (Creek bounty-land claims), was simply aiding him in making the investigation, etc. There is still another reason: You recollect in Iverson's letter to me at the Creek agency, he made a sort of threat that your and my Choctaw business might be injured if certain facts in regard to the distribution of the Creek fee got out; meaning, of course, if the proposition he made in that letter was not complied with. I wrote him a full and judicious reply, in which I stated that the control of the Choctaw matter had passed from my hands, and was now in those of a personal and political friend of the Senator from Arkansas; knowing or believing that he would not work against a matter in which such a friend of theirs was so interested. He has never noticed my reply, which looks as though he was not satisfied, though intended to satisfy him, so far as I was concerned. As he has treated my letter thus slightly, I have not gone to see him. If he is hostile, he is doubtless watching the Choctaw matter, and the first movement made in it, he will want to know where it comes from. Hence I have been precluded from taking any step in regard to it in the absence of Luce, whose arrival may certainly be now counted on daily. As soon as he comes, the course will be to have him get Sebastian to have a resolution of the proper kind adopted, referring the matter to the Department of the Interior. It will, of course, go to the Indian Office. Mix being Acting Commissioner, Luce and I can make up the right sort of a report for him, and through Sebastian, Johnson, and Fitzpatrick, can probably bring influence sufficient to bear on the Secretary to induce him to adopt it. This will serve as the basis of the action of the Committee in the Senate, and if the thing can be worked along in this way there ought not to be much difficulty in that body.

In this view of the case, I don't see that there is any *necessity*.

for your being here before the matter has been sent back from the Department to the Senate. I think Luce and I can work it quietly and successfully along till then. When it gets back there you might aid efficiently in making up Sebastian's report, and then in effecting its adoption by the Senate. I would be glad to have you here during the whole progress of the matter, but there is no use of your being here, at the heavy sacrifice it subjects you to, when there is no real necessity, and I would be reluctant to notify you to come until such a necessity arises. But, as the matter stands, there may, and probably will, not be any such necessity for your presence for some six weeks, or it may be two months. Whenever it reaches a point where you can strike in effectually or advantageously, I will not fail to let you know, as I am really getting very tired of it, and am anxious, by bringing every available influence to bear, to have it disposed of during the present session.

Truly your friend,

J. T. COCHRANE.

A. PIKE, Esq.

#### A BIT OF HISTORY CONNECTED WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Perhaps no question in the internal policy of the United States Government has attracted more attention or afforded greater food for speculation than that which pertains to the Indian people. Their condition in war and in peace has ever engaged attention, from the first Colonial legislation, in 1775, to the present session of Congress, 1874.

Legislation in Indian matters began June 30th, 1775, the Colonial Congress passing the following:

*"Resolved*, That the Committee for Indian Affairs do prepare proper talks to the several tribes of Indians, for engaging the continuance of their friendship to us, and neutrality in our present unhappy dispute with Great Britain."

After which the same Congress, July 12th, 1775, created

"Three departments of Indians—the northern, middle, and southern. The northern to extend so far south as to include the whole of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations, and all the Indians northward of those nations. The southern department to extend so far north as to include the Cherokees, and all the Indians that may be to the southward



of them. The middle to contain the Indians nations that lie between the other two departments.

"That five commissioners be appointed for the southern department.

"That for each of the other two departments there be appointed three commissioners."

By this legislation we see that the Government, while in its incipency, assumed control over all Indians within the jurisdiction of the Colonies; and, while acting under the dictates of a prudent political policy, kindness and forbearance marked the legislation which pertained to their management, for ere the Declaration of Independence was read, or the glad shout was given which told that a *nation* was born, Congress, February 5th, 1776, promulgated the following:

"*Resolved*, That a friendly commerce between the people of the United Colonies and the Indians, and the propagation of the gospel, and the cultivation of the civil arts among the latter, may produce many and inestimable advantages to both; and that the Commissioners for Indian Affairs be desired to consider of proper places, in their respective departments, for the residence of ministers and schoolmasters, and report the same to Congress."

Then, as now, we see that the policy of the Government was peace, and began a system, existing to this day, peculiar in its workings and anomalous in its character.

The treaties made at this early date were very simple and unincumbered by promises, merely establishing peace and friendship, and prescribing the metes and bounds of hunting grounds. As time wore on, and the population of the new Republic began to increase, the different States found it necessary to petition Congress to either allow them jurisdiction over the Indians, or remove them within certain limits. The influence of these petitions gave rise to that species of cession of Indian lands that extinguished title by treaty. This species of cession has assiduously been kept up to this day, from New York to Kansas, each successive treaty giving more promises and concessions on the part of the Government.

As early as February 3, 1820, James Barbour, then Secretary of War, in his official report suggested a *bill* for establish-

ing a territorial government over the Indians west of the Mississippi, the principal points of which were—

“A territorial government to be maintained by the United States.

“If circumstances shall eventually justify it, the extinction of tribes and their amalgamation into one mass, and a distribution of property among the individuals.”

The Secretary, in his remarks on the particular features of the *bill*, says :

“The third object of the bill is, the establishing of a territorial government by the United States for their protection and their civilization. The bill proposes a governor, three judges, and a secretary, to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and such modification in detail as the President shall ordain, subject to the approbation of Congress.”

“A fourth object of the bill is, the division of their lands in such manner, and at such times, as the President may think proper. The object of this provision is to give the power to the President, when, in his judgment circumstances will justify it, to distribute the land among the individuals by metes and bounds in contradistinction to its being held in common by a tribe. Nothing, it is believed, has had a more injurious influence on our efforts to improve the condition of the Indians than holding their land in *common*. Whether such a system may succeed on a very limited scale, is yet to be ascertained. Past experience has left the strongest evidence against its practicability under less favorable auspices. The attempt of that kind in the first settlement of Virginia, and, I believe, in the early settlements elsewhere, conducted the colonists to the very brink of ruin, from which they were rescued only by abandoning it. The distribution of the soil, and the individuality imparted to the avails of its cultivation, history informs us, instantly gave a new and favorable aspect to their condition. \* \* \* \* \*

If, therefore, the position be a just one, that every attempt at a community of property has eventuated unsuccessfully, even with civilized man, it is no matter of wonder that it should have been equally so with the savage. \* \* \*

“To those advantages may be added the consideration, that after an individual distribution, the effort of the whites to dispossess them of their lands thus held must cease. The individual appropriation of land gives a sanctity to the title

which inspires respect in nations the most barbarous. It would repress, with us, any thought of disturbing it. When this is effected, the distinction of tribes may easily be abolished, and the whole consolidated into one great family. \* \* \*

"I will add, that the end proposed is the happiness of the Indians; the instrument of its accomplishment—their progressive, and, finally, their complete civilization. The obstacles to success are their ignorance, their prejudices, their repugnance to labor, their wandering propensities, and the uncertainty of the future."

Had Mr. Barbour lived in our time, and indited the above for present consideration, he could not more correctly have depicted the wants, or delineated the character of the Indians. Is it not surprising that their condition and wants are the same in our day as in his?

Mr. Thos. L. McKenney, of the Indian Office, in a report to the Secretary the year previous—December 13, 1825—referring to a similar change in their condition, says:

"Indeed, those of them [the Indians] who have thought most upon this subject, who feel, with the return of every year, the swell of the same ocean that has swept off so many of their tribes breaking at their feet, have no objection to pass at once under the laws of the States, and into permanent repose, except that which arises out of their apprehension that a portion of their people are *not yet prepared for it.*"

The phrase italicised by the Commissioner has in our day become a *stereotyped* one, in so far as evading any proposition in Congress to pass a territorial bill.

The evasion, however, is hatched up by delegates, and the attorneys who work with them in Washington, for no other purpose than to prolong their own swindling schemes. It is true, in one sense of the word, that the masses are not yet prepared, but it has been a settled determination on the part of these delegates and attorneys, from that day to this, that the masses should not be prepared. Few people know how Indian treaties are made, or where the large gifts of goods and moneys go when appropriated; and as we have already intimated that the *full-blood* Indian got but a small proportion, if any, we will introduce a few extracts from the times

of *long ago*, and see how the Indian business has worked up to the present time. A letter, dated Nashville, October 30, 1818, addressed to J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, and signed Isaac Shelby and Andrew Jackson, says:

"We had the pleasure, on the 23d instant, to address you, in which we made known to you that on the 19th we had the good fortune to conclude a treaty with the Chickasaw Nation of Indians, by which they have ceded to the United States all claim or title to the land within the States of Kentucky and Tennessee. \* \* \* \* \*

"The Colberts yielded the nation, and of course laid several hundred per cent. on their own influence. The reserves suggested themselves to us. \* \* \* \* \*

We would suggest that Martin Colbert go on to the city to await the ratification of the treaty. General Jackson has assured him that as soon as the ratification of the treaty takes place, Mr. Thomas Keikman will advance him the goods, and has instructed Mr. James Jackson to advise him accordingly.

"We can assure you that without this *douceur* we could not have obtained the treaty."

A report of House Committee on Indian affairs, made February 24, 1830, has the following:

"Those of them who have been the fathers as well as the chiefs of their people, as in former times, will receive the public sympathy; but their power of doing good, and of enjoying the love of their people, will not be taken from them. That there may be some such, the committee believes; but that in general, in the Southern tribes, avarice, and a corrupt love of power, have supplanted everything that claimed respect in the former practice of their chiefs, the committee are well satisfied. In all these tribes it appears that a very small number of artful and ambitious men, and sometimes white men, thrust themselves into the management of their affairs, and, secretly or openly, become absolute in the direction of them. The personal consequence which follows the possession of power everywhere may be some inducement to seek this pre-eminence; but the annuity system will, perhaps, be found to be the great source of corruption among the principal Indian chiefs. To have the control and distribution of them is believed to be the highest object of ambition with the great number of them. \* \* \* \* \*

"They appear, also, to have established something in the

nature of a loan office or bank, in which are deposited the funds arising from the annuities payable by the Government, and these are loaned out among themselves or their favorites. The committee have not been able to learn that the common Indians have shared any part of the annuities of the tribe for many years. The number of those who control the Government are understood not to exceed twenty-five or thirty persons. \* \* \* \* \*

"The same causes which have contributed to elevate the character and increase the comforts of the mixed race, have tended to diminish the means of subsistence among the Indians of purer blood. Victims alike to the worthless white men from without, and to the crafty policy of their own rulers within, they have become a naked, miserable, and degraded race."

It seems almost incredible that the condition so graphically depicted by the committee should apply at this day to the same people, at the expiration of forty-four years; yet will it not seem singularly strange, though true, that the very causes which were at work to produce it have still an abiding place in the lap of our most benevolent and Christian societies, located in the hearts of our most flourishing cities. Hear what the committee further say, and then let them drape themselves in sackcloth and ashes:

"If this representation of the condition of common Indians shall appear too highly colored, when contrasted with those glowing pictures of their happy and improving condition, with which the Christian world has been so long cheered, the committee can only say, in explanation, that both sides of the picture may still be substantially true when viewed in reference to distinct classes. As wealth and a higher complexion do not necessarily imply any great degree of moral cultivation, it is probable that the resident missionary teachers have found an ample field for their labors among the more fortunate portion of the tribe. They, as well as the benevolent traveler, may have regarded the higher class as a nucleus around which they might finally bring the naked and hungry wanderers whom they rarely saw, except about the farms and doors of the wealthy, gradually to arrange and form themselves, by the observance and practice of the customs and arts of civilized life. With such anticipations, however delusive, if the abject condition of the mass has been veiled from the public view, the pious fraud may be excused, if not justified."

We may say, that from that day to this the "abject condition of the mass has been veiled from the public view," and by the same means which induced the House committee to style it a "pious fraud." But hear, again, what the committee say, when speaking of the emigration of the Indians west:

"The most active and extraordinary means have been employed to misrepresent the intentions of the Government on the one hand, and the condition of the Indians on the other. The vivid representations of the progress of Indian civilization, which have been so industriously circulated by the party among themselves opposed to emigration, and by their agents, have had the effect of engaging the sympathies and exciting the zeal of many benevolent individuals and societies, who have manifested scarcely less talent than perseverance in resisting the views of the Government. Whether those who have been thus employed can claim to have been the most judicious friends of the Indians, remains to be tested by time."

As we who favor allotment of lands, and the passage of a territorial bill by Congress, are divided and accused of favoring land speculation, so were those, in 1830, who favored the emigration of the Indians; but the committee appealed to time for the truth of their assertions, and time has come and bears them record that they were right. These benevolent societies may ask themselves whether they are now "the most judicious friends of the Indians." The committee further say, that "The effect of these indications of favor and protection has been to encourage them in the most extravagant pretensions. They have been taught to have new views of their rights."

If there were no other reasons why a change in the policy of the Government toward the political status of Indian tribes should be inaugurated, the very facts herein set forth, and known to have been in operation for a long period of years, are sufficient of themselves, when it can be unequivocally asserted that they are still in force, and that the policy of benevolent societies are made use of, by delegates and office-holders in the Indian nations, to dupe the people of the United States, and to practice fraud upon their own people.

It will be seen, by referring to the report of Mr. James Bar-

bour, Secretary of War in 1826, that the propositions for a territorial bill were the same in substance as those now proposed, and that the opposition to that bill to emigration and to allotment of lands was as universal then as to the bill and the allotment of lands now. The House committee report, from which we have already quoted extensively, shows that this spirit of opposition had not abated, but increased, up to 1830. The same class of persons opposed it as do now the territorial scheme. Let us see who they are and what their object is. It is singular that our own time in these matters should reflect so perfectly the very causes which caused the committee to say:

“The principal one is the idea of a separate and independent State of their own, where they now live. This is the work, principally, of comparatively a few, who are either white men connected with the nation by marriage, or of those of mixed blood, born in the nation, who are well educated and intelligent, who have acquired considerable property, and through the annuities paid by the United States, and by other means, are yearly adding to it. This class of people, it is believed, do not altogether equal one hundred in number. A very small portion of full-blooded Indians can be named who are in the like circumstances, or who have much agency in their public affairs.

“Those who are in public employ have an influence almost unbounded over the nation. They fill all the offices created by their laws, and have the entire management of the funds derived from every source.”

As the idea of an *independent Government* of their own was a drawback to their emigration West, so is the same cause prolific of all the opposition to allotment of lands, a Territorial Government, and the farther progress of civilizing influences at this day. The same idea now prevails among those who wield the politics of the nation, and we have the miserable farce of a Government which aborted under its own incongruities at Okmulgee, December, 1873. The principles of this Government were instituted and nurtured under the auspices of the Rosses and the Vanns of the Cherokees, the Moores and McIntoshes of the Creeks, and Joseph P. Folsom of the Choctaws.

It was in operation, or it is claimed to have been, for four years, the first Council being convened in 1870. The Constitution drafted by these men looks to an *imperium in imperio*—a thing incompatible with common sense and the Constitution of the General Government. However, it was only a make-believe from the beginning—they never intended to make a Government; but as long as they could assemble and have a good time at the expense of the United States, they had no objection to meeting in council. But when certain treaty stipulations were pointed out to them, and they were required to change their Constitution so as to give the President appointing power, they prepared a memorial to Congress and the President, and adjourned.

The same committee, in speaking of full-blood Indians, say :

“ They are the tenants of the wretched huts and villages in the recesses of the mountains and elsewhere, remote from the highways and the neighborhood of the wealthy and prosperous. \* \* \* \* \*

“ It will be almost incredible to those who have formed their opinions of the condition of the Cherokees from the inflated general accounts found in the public journals of the day, when it is stated that this class constitutes, perhaps, nineteen out of twenty of the whole number of souls in the Cherokee country.”

What the committee here say of the condition of the full-bloods in 1830, is true of their condition in 1874. The fine reports which are placed upon paper, and put forth as cheering accounts of progressive civilization, will apply only to half-breed communities. Ignorance is fearfully in the ascendancy throughout all Indian tribes. The few who manage and manipulate the resources of the nation to themselves and their friends, are responsible for the untruthful reports which find the light through columns of religious journals. The full-bloods are poorer and more degraded than they were twenty years ago. The business of the country is in the hands of a few *licensed traders*, who make a monopoly of everything available. When annuities reach the country, the individual certificates are generally bought up, and the moneys never



become a circulating medium among the people. No public enterprise is carried on that does not subserve the ends of a few. Under this state of affairs those who manage the manipulation—office-holders and licensed traders—are most bitter against any change in the status of the Indian. They do not want the masses to become civilized, and consequently they never suggest any method among themselves by which the condition of the full-blood may be bettered. They work upon his prejudices, and array him against the white race, and thus divert his mind from the swindles they are carrying on. The past has shown that this national isolation and the owning of land in common, has been the great screen behind which are hidden the many wrongs which have been committed against them by the trusted of their own people.

#### TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

The Indian Territory, as a whole, may be said to be a beautiful interspersion of prairie, woodland and valley, and it is, perhaps, this peculiarity, rather than a knowledge of the quality of the soil, which has attracted the eyes of travelers and given it notoriety, with the appellation of an Eden.

The elevated rolls of prairie lands, intervened by ravines, and skirted here and there with groves of timber, present an ever-varied and picturesque landscape, never breaking off into abruptness, but presenting new beauties and perceivable changes as the eye wearies with distance. A traveler passing from a glade of prairie into a seemingly dense wood is soon to emerge into other glades, alternating to almost every conceivable shape—circles, half-circles, oblongs, etc. There are no boundless plains, but belts of post-oak timber stretch across in every direction, producing that beautiful variety of landscape which is the more peculiar in its varied changes. The country is traversed in its several sections by high ranges of hills, which in some localities attain the altitude of mountains; these give source to many large creeks, which, by their continual windings, water the country at very nearly equal distances, being tributary to the Arkansas, Canadian and Red rivers. There is not a scope of country, perhaps, of the same

area on the American continent that can boast of so many perennial streams as the Indian Territory, there being not a section, within the knowledge of the author, where water-power is not available for all kinds of machinery.

#### BOTTOM LANDS.

With three such large streams as the Arkansas, Canadian and Red rivers, flowing directly through the country, with the many creeks which go to make up their tributaries, it would naturally lead to the supposition that much of the lands was of the character of bottom; but this is only so in so far as lowland skirting rivers may be considered as such, for generally they are not subject to overflow, and when they are, the water remains but a short time; and while there is a sufficiency of good timber for all practical purposes, the prairie juts in on the streams and forms a great portion of what is here styled bottom. This alternate jutting in and out of the prairie is a beautiful provision of nature against malaria, acting as vents to its noxious influences, and thereby conducing to healthfulness and purity of climate.

The timbered and prairie lands are about equally divided, and the same character of alternation extends into the hilly or mountainous regions. A singular beauty, incident to the topography, are the elevated plats, suitable for building sites, everywhere overlooking the low grounds. These are generally covered with timber, and frequently large springs throw out volumes of water sufficient, were it necessary, for irrigating purposes.

In topographical outline the country is naturally susceptible of three divisions—a northern, middle, and southern. The Arkansas river has its head-water source in Colorado, flowing east and southeast through Southern Kansas, and entering the Indian Territory a little west of 97° west longitude, watering its northeastern one-third.

The Canadian and Red rivers have their source near the borders of the Staked Plains. The Canadian runs an east-northeast course, near the middle of the territory, to its confluence with the Arkansas, about fifty miles west of Fort

Smith, while the Red river pursues an east-southeast course to its confluence with the Mississippi, far down in Louisiana. The Red river divides the Indian Territory from the State of Texas. These three rivers form the divisions referred to above. North of the Arkansas river lies a strip of Creek country, and more than three-fourths of that of the Cherokees.

East of the Arkansas river to the Grand—this region comprises many fertile tracts of both wooded and prairie lands, which are unequaled for farming or grazing purposes, the greater part of which is yet uncultivated.

West of the Arkansas, to the 100° of longitude, and south to the Canadian and down this river to its confluence with the Arkansas, constitutes the middle division, while all south of the confluence down the Arkansas to the western line of the State of Arkansas, thence south to Red river and up to the 100°, and north to the Canadian, composes the southern division.

The basis of description in these divisions will be mainly in the order of the reservations as first assigned to the five nations, without reference to the occupancy of small tribes to certain sections since the boundaries were determined.

The extreme northwestern portion, formerly known as the Cherokee strip, was purchased by the United States and set apart under treaty stipulations for the occupancy of such tribes, or parts of tribes, as might be persuaded to move there under the present policy of the Indian Department. This portion is not so diversified by prairie and timber as are other tracts lying farther east; there are places, however, where excellent farms could be made, convenient to wood and water. The high, rolling prairies are composed of good soil, and by hedging could be utilized and made equal in point of comforts to those better provided for by the hand of nature. Extensive plats occur between the high, barren ridges, which are protected from the cold, biting winds of winter. These are really pastoral lands, and instead of being a wild waste of wilderness should give pasture to extensive flocks and herds.

#### A PASTORAL LAND.

Viewed as a pastoral land, the Indian Territory, from its

eastern to its western, and from its southern to its northern borders, may be said to be one vast pasture, intersected here and there by river and by creek, by prairie and by woodland, affording unequalled facilities for winter and summer grazing, where sheep, cattle and horses can be raised at a nominal expense, when compared with States and Territories lying north, where the severity of winter require ample provision of forage and shelter. When we recollect that but a few years ago vast herds of buffalo roamed over and drew sustenance from its luxuriant herbage, and the unknown ages of their periodic wanderings, we may well calculate that its resources in this respect are unbounded. The wooded parts of the country are generally open, and tall, rank grass grows as freely, shaded by the forest, as where it waves in the light and breeze of prairied expanse. Now, as in days ago, when the Indian had no home, but pursued an erratic life, the grasses grow almost in the undisturbed luxuriance of those primitive days. (The many streams which meander through prairie and woodland permeate moisture through the porous soils, and when other lands are parched and dry from the heat of a summer sun, the herbage of the Indian Territory waves in the dews of the morning and carpets the earth with verdure.) The climate is mild and healthy, frost being rare after the 10th of March or before the 20th of October or the middle of November, and then often so light as not materially to injure the grass, which remains green nine months in the year. Toward the latter part of November it dies out, but is, nevertheless, not impaired in nutritive qualities; and, when prairies are not burned, stock keep in good order the year round, and require little attention, save collecting and branding in the spring.

#### WINTER RANGE.

The winter range, aside from the dried grass, is excellent. In ravines and the bottom lands which skirt the various streams and rivers, a species of wild rye is found growing, which attains the height of five or six inches; this commences its growth early in the fall and remains green until late in the spring. Cane is also abundant in the large bottoms of rivers and

many of the smaller streams. This is quite succulent, and, as it remains green both summer and winter, stock betake themselves to it when the first cold blasts of winter begin, and seem loth to leave it for the tender grass which shoots up in early spring on the prairies.

Another article of winter food, of which stock are very fond, is the fruit of the Bois-d'Arc, or Osage orange; the tree grows wild nearly through the whole extent of the Territory, both on upland and in bottoms, but attains a larger size on lowlands than uplands, making a tree two to four feet in diameter, and fifty to sixty feet high. The fruit is larger than the largest size apple, and contains a great many seed, which, together with the pulp, is very nutritious. Cattle, hogs, horses, and sheep fatten on this fruit alone.

The wood of the Bois-d'Arc is of a bright yellow color, extremely hard and compact, and is not susceptible of decay. It is used for making wagons, fence-posts, and for other purposes. The seed are taken from the fruit by machinery, dried and sacked for shipment, to be used for hedging purposes, and are a resource from which a considerable revenue may be derived, averaging in market from ten to sixty dollars per bushel.

The winters, as we have said, are generally very mild, yet there are times when stock need shelter to protect them from northers, which rarely fail to make their appearance several times during the winter months. There are winters without snow, yet it sometimes comes, and during the prevalence of a norther, may remain on the ground several days, though frequently only for a few hours.

Provision of forage or shelter is seldom made for stock during the winter months, and, were it possible to keep fire from the prairies, forage would scarcely be necessary; even under present circumstances they invariably come out in the spring in fair order. But however this may be, the want of provision is a piece of carelessness which causes breeds to degenerate, and the stock-raiser who is alive to his every interest; will find that a little care and attention to this matter

will foot up a pretty fair per cent. to compensate him for his trouble when market day arrives.

The cattle raised in the Indian Territory are rated superior to Texas cattle in Western and Eastern markets, being short and bulky, while the Texas-raised are long, big-boned and thin-muscled. This difference is due, perhaps, to some climatic influence, for no sooner do we cross Red river than these discriminating characters become apparent.

#### SHEEP.

Sheep thrive and do well. The high prairie lands, and the hilly regions where there are interspersions of timber and prairie, seem eminently fitted to their nature, and as no disease has ever prevailed among them, losses from other causes would be inconsiderable. There are as yet, however, but few of these animals in the country, sheep-raising being a species of enterprise which has received but little attention, as cattle require less care and are more profitable in a small way.

#### HOGS.

Of these animals there are considerable numbers. No particular care is taken of them—being marked and turned out to shift for themselves. In winter they get fat on oak and pecan mast, and are generally slaughtered in the woods. The Berkshire and Chester white are the most approved breeds.

Before the late war a majority of the citizens throughout the entire country were possessed of large herds of cattle, sheep and ponies. At that time cattle could be counted by thousands on the prairies where now they cannot be counted by hundreds. Many were driven off or consumed by the contending armies, and during the four years of war very little attention was paid to stock of any kind. On the return of peace, however, a new energy seemed for awhile to infuse the people, and a bright future seemed to dawn before them; but unhappily the war had left them impoverished in everything save their stock. The war had alike its influence upon the Northern and Southern States, and the stock regions of both had been extensively drawn upon, consequently the demands of these sections were considerably above the supply, and the

Indian Territory and Texas were called upon to supply the deficiency, and a brisk trade was opened up between these sections.

Texas, however, retaining her state rights, put her cattle upon the market and received money in lieu, and prospered; but the Indian Territory, in its detestable isolation, enveloped with a tyrannical *Intercourse Law*, stood at the mercy of monopolists. By this intercourse law *free trade* was barred, and the trade fell into the hands of a few favored sharpers, who established cattle stores at various points, and said to the people, as Joseph said to the Egyptians when their money was gone, "Give your cattle; and I [we] will give you for your cattle, if money fail;" and thus, for inferior goods at exorbitant prices the country was frittered of its only available resource left by the ravages of war.

Previous to the war considerable interest had been taken in improving breeds, and good stock was introduced from Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio, but, through neglect and from other causes, these have degenerated, and the stock now on hand is inferior in breed and size.

#### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

There are few plants or vegetables of economic value which may not be cultivated and brought to maturity in some sections of the country. The variety of soils everywhere exhibited leaves a choice for the different kinds to be produced, without the necessity for artificial preparation, and these characters, coupled with the medium of climatic influence, which is intermediate between the two extremes of northern and southern latitude, eminently adapts to that line of industry so extensively followed in the Eastern States.

#### MARKET FACILITIES.

The rapid extension of the railway system in the last decade to parts hitherto almost unknown has quite reversed the commercial tide. For a long series of years the productions of the Pacific coast found entrance into the interior only by ocean and river routes, while those of Texas could only find market by the Gulf or by wagon transportation. These obstacles

have now, happily, been overcome, and the steam-power of the locomotive is penetrating the heart of heretofore distant countries, and bearing, with almost electrical speed, their resources to the lap of the interior. The Indian Territory, with all its proclivities for isolation, has not been able to escape, and two roads have penetrated its wilds—viz., the Atlantic and Pacific and Missouri, Kansas and Texas. The Atlantic and Pacific enters the northeast corner of the Territory, passing through the Shawnee reserve, and running west-southwest to Vinita, in the Cherokee Nation, forming a junction with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas; thence to be pushed southwest-west to a point on the Canadian river, intercepting the old Fort Smith and Santa Fe trail, longitude 99°, latitude 35°, and thence, with very little variation, from the 35th parallel to the Pacific coast. This road, from Vinita to 99° west, will pass through a very fertile region.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas enters the northern part of the Territory a little west of the Nesho river, and pursues nearly a southerly course, passing nearly central the breadth of the country, crossing Red river near the great overland route from Texas to Kansas.

The cities and towns which have sprung up on these lines in Missouri and Kansas, and those in northeastern Texas, together with the great city of St. Louis, with her four hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, call loudly for the development of the resources of the Indian Territory. Texas has her large areas of fine land, but they are of such a nature as not to be adapted to the culture of varieties without artificial preparation, consequently competition in the raising of vegetables will not come from that quarter—rather they will look here for their supplies; so will Kansas and Missouri for their first of spring, summer and fall fruits.

#### IRISH POTATOES.

These may be put in the ground as early as the first of February, and early varieties may be got to market by May. In some instances the potato, without cutting, is wrapped in straw, and planted in deep furrows late in October, and left



for the winter, and, being ridged up so as to put them below the freezing point, small potatoes are formed, and are found to be of good size very early in the spring. Throughout the entire country they attain to a large size, and when planted early require but very little culture, as they are generally of thrifty growth, and mature before grass and weeds become troublesome, which are then allowed to grow as protectives from the heat of the sun.

#### SWEET POTATOES.

The proper way to plant these is to bed them out early in the spring, protected by a cold-frame or some covering, and, when danger from frost is passed, to draw slips and set them out, either in ridges or in hills. Sweet potatoes are extensively cultivated by the Indians, many thousand bushels being raised annually.

#### ONIONS, RADISHES, ETC.

Onions may be sown in drills quite early, say in February, and if properly cultivated will attain a large size by the latter part of July. Radishes, peas, beets, and other hardy vegetables, may be planted quite as early as onions. Cabbages thrive, and are not subject to disease as in Eastern States. The early varieties which may be grown are the Little Pixie, Cannon Ball, and Winningstadt. Mr. James J. H. Gregory, seedsman, Marblehead, Massachusetts, particularly recommends the latter variety for sandy soil, and where it has been tried in this country it has, in every instance, proved a success. The Marblehead Mammoth is also an excellent variety for late planting.

With comparatively mild winters, and a long, growing period, it will be seen that every vegetable and plant which may be desirable can be grown here at very little expense or trouble.

#### NATIVE FRUITS.

The native fruits are grapes, plums, strawberries, blackberries and persimmons. The summer variety of grape is large and of excellent flavor. The vine embraces two species—one a low bush, growing on post-oak ridges, and the other climb-

ing, growing on hills and in bottoms. These vines fruit nearly every year, demonstrating the fact that it is really a grape-growing country, and will vie with any other in this respect. The berries enumerated above are excellent, for uncultivated fruits.

The mustang grape is found growing along the bottoms of Red river. It is very large and juicy, and makes a very fair quality of red wine.

#### PECANS.

Pecan trees compose largely the bottom forests, and bear largely every year. The nuts are gathered by the full-blood Indians, and sold to resident merchants, who sack them and ship to St. Louis to market.

#### SPRING RAINS.

During the early spring months the rain-fall is considerable, and continues when it begins, either in March or April, for several weeks, very often preventing farmers from preparing lands for planting. The difficulty of preparing land, however, may be avoided by plowing and harrowing in the fall or winter months, as there is scarcely a week in these months when plowing cannot be done; and the farmer who neglects the opportunity then given him will most certainly be behind-hand in his crop.

The following is the report of a committee, authorized to report upon the agricultural resources of the Territory, by the General Council which met at Okmulgee December 1st, 1870:

The committee to whom the duty was assigned of reporting upon the agricultural interests and resources of the Indian Territory, regret to say that they have no data upon which to estimate, even approximately, the quantity of land in cultivation within the limits of the Indian Territory.

The Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Seminoles, Shawnees, Delawares, Senecas, Quapaws, Ottawas, Wyandottes, and the confederated Peorias, Weas, Piankeshaws and Kas-kas kias, are an agricultural people, and rely upon the cultivation of the soil and the raising of stock for a livelihood, and the Sacs and Foxes, Osages, and others, are making commendable progress in that direction. The extent of their farms vary from a few acres to two and three hundred, and in one

instance in the Chickasaw Nation, in the fertile valley of the Washita, to more than two thousand acres. While there are many farms sufficiently large, the majority of them might be increased with great advantage. The interest in this respect is growing, and since the close of the war to the present time there is a marked progress in the general improvement, in the buildings and farms among the Indian people. In these respects, there is wide room for further advancement, and this we confidently expect to witness, whenever the constant agitations in Congress and elsewhere, which so much disturb the security of the people and discourage all their efforts to improvement, shall cease.

But, notwithstanding all adverse influences, the condition of the people is not stationary, but progressive. The idea which obtains to a considerable extent, in even otherwise well informed circles remote from the homes of the Indians, that they live by hunting, fishing and trapping, is entirely erroneous, so far as applied to the nations and tribes enumerated above. They are settled and not nomadic in their habits, and rely upon the cultivation of the soil for their subsistence. Their advancement is not all that we could desire, but is an earnest of better things in the future, and shows a susceptibility for further improvement, and, with proper efforts, the native ability to reach a genuine civilization. A large area of the inhabited portion of the Indian Territory is well adapted to the use of improved agricultural implements. Their introduction, as yet, is limited, but, perhaps, equal to what should be expected, when it is borne in mind how much men are apt to do as their fathers did before them, as their neighbors do around them, and as the limited means at their disposal allowed. Reapers, mowers and threshers of different patents are seen in some places, while improved plows for turning prairie land and working crops are found in large numbers. We would desire to impress the people of the Territory engaged in agriculture with the importance of giving more attention to this subject than is now done. Good implements, well and timely used, lighten the burdens of labor, impart a real pleasure to employment, and largely increase its results. They relieve both man and beast, and directly increase the value of time by increasing its results. The crops which can be profitably grown in the soil and climate of the Territory are very nearly all those adapted to a rich soil and temperate latitude. Corn is the staple crop, and, even under our somewhat defective plan of culture, yields, upon an average, from thirty to sixty bushels per acre. In favorable sea-

sons it does well in all portions of the Territory. Wheat is not so generally grown as it should be, chiefly, we apprehend, because of the scarcity of mills for the manufacture of flour. The Cherokees, perhaps, grow more than any nation in the Territory. The average yield is about fifteen bushels. It has been known to yield as high as forty-two. But few farmers there, however, prepare the soil and seed it down with the care the crop demands. South of the Canadian, and on the Arkansas and Red rivers, and the uplands intervening, cotton was formerly extensively cultivated, and was the most valuable crop of that region. We hope to see it again whitening large and well tilled fields, and bringing in treasure and wealth to our brothers of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations—the Chickasaw crop this year being estimated at five thousand bales. Tobacco is extensively grown.

Of the grasses we need say but a word. Our prairies furnish all that is now to be had, and all that seems to be cared for. Clover and timothy do well, and would even now repay their cultivation. Blue grass also succeeds well, and will be as much at home in some portions of the Territory as it is in Kentucky. Rye and oats do well all over the Territory, so far as your committee are advised, a species of the former being indigenous to the soil and affording excellent winter pasturage. Potatoes, beans, beets, pumpkins, upland rice, turnips, cabbage, onions, and nearly all garden vegetables, in suitable soil and with seasonable culture, grow to perfection. In horticulture, with some exceptions, we are lamentably behind the times. So far as tested, no finer apples are grown in the United States than some we have seen from orchards in the Indian Territory north of the Canadian and Arkansas rivers. Peaches, pears, plums and cherries succeed, while the smaller fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and grapes, are to the "manor born."

Your committee would be much gratified to be the means of awakening a general interest upon this subject, and stirring up the people more generally to the cultivation of the more desirable kinds of fruits. There is pleasure in the pursuit, and health and profit in the results of horticulture.

As regards the domestic animals of the Territory, we need scarcely remark that stock raising must furnish occupation for a large number of our people. It is adapted to their habits, and to our climate, and will be the source of the largest profit to those who embark in it. The number of domestic animals, and the quality of their breeds, have been sadly reduced and deteriorated by the war. Large and magnificent herds of

cattle have entirely disappeared from our prairies, and the accumulation of forty years vanished into nothingness. But the grass still grows and the waters run, inviting and urging our people to untiring efforts to renew their herds of cattle, horses and hogs, and flocks of sheep and goats. Money, food and raiment, stimulate them to start again in pastoral life, and to get the best improved breeds of all kinds of stock that may be within their means.

In conclusion, your committee beg leave to say, that as agriculture and its kindred branches—horticulture and stock raising—should and must constitute the chief pursuits of the great majority of our people, every means in our power should be adopted to foster and encourage them. Even now they have every inducement to increased care and exertions in those directions. Markets are now brought to our very doors, or soon will be, by extension of railroads, the increase of travel through our territory, and the teeming population that moves with resistless activity around our borders. Everything that we can produce beyond our own consumption is, and will continue to be, in demand.

The country which we possess, the homes we occupy, are our own, and the heritage of our children, by every right known and respected of men. Let us diligently improve and use them, remembering our own responsibility in the premises, and the duty we owe to those who may come after us. Even the log cabin is more stable than the lodge set up with poles and covered with straw and buffalo hides. The people who have homes, and cultivated fields and orchards, are more secure from intrusion and aggression than those who have no fixed residence or abiding place. Here is our only home, and in it we must thrive and increase, or dwindle and perish. Either result is largely within our own control. As we choose to have it, so will it be.

#### THE CHEROKEE NATION.

The Cherokee Nation embraces a strip of country which extends from the western lines of the States of Arkansas and Missouri to the 96° of west longitude, having Kansas on the north and the Choctaw Nation on the south, separated by the south Canadian and Arkansas rivers. It embraces an area of 3,844,712 acres, and has a population, according to the census for 1872, of 18,000. This nation was greatly devastated during the war, and the improvements generally throughout the

country are new, and give a character of thrift and enterprise, contrasted with the dilapidation presented in other nations that were not subjected to the ravages of the contending armies.

The eastern half of the strip lying north of the Arkansas river partakes in some degree of the character of western Arkansas, especially in its geological configuration, being a continuation of the carboniferous period, largely developed in Washington and Benton counties. Striking off, however, from the State line, the prairie scope increases as we approach the west, divesting it of its irregularities, and gradually assuming a level. This was once the most populous and thriving portion of the Nation, and is noted for its pine forests and bold, rushing springs. The soil of the arable lands is of good quality, and is well adapted to the raising of corn and wheat. The yield of wheat per acre for 1873, throughout the Nation, according to the *Cherokee Advocate*, was twenty-two bushels. This region, in the production of fine fruit, vies with western Arkansas and Missouri. The apple crop is generally quite large, and many hundred bushels are transported by wagon to Texas, and sold at remunerative prices. The bottom land bordering the Arkansas river is similar in character and quality of soil to that described on the Choctaw side. It is eminently fitted for cotton, and though the present production of that material is small, its culture will one day be the great source of wealth of this region.

#### LEAD ORE.

Out-crops of fine-grained sandstone, alternated with flints and bluffs of limestone, are characteristics of the hilly portion. A species of black marble is also common, and admits of fine polish. As might be expected from the character of the geological surroundings, lead ore has been found, but as there are no laws which encourage mining enterprise, it is undeveloped, and, whether in quantity or not, it is forced to lie as so much dead material. Coal is also found in several localities, and surface indications are favorable for large deposits, but as yet no enterprise has been started, except a few blacksmiths' shops

which require its use, and being removed from any public thoroughfare, it is a resource for future development.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway cuts the western half of this northern strip, passing through the most fertile portion. Here are emphatically the farming and grazing lands of the Cherokees. Belts of excellent timber skirt the numerous streams which go to make the larger tributaries of the Arkansas. Adjacent to these streams, and sometimes running up to their very banks, are level strips of prairie, as beautiful as eye ever beheld. These strips partake of different varieties of soil, yet all exhibit a superior degree of fertility by heavy growths of grass. Comparatively a small portion of this extensive region has been put under cultivation. Some of the more enterprising of the natives, with the assistance of white labor, have tolerable farms, and corn and wheat sufficient for home consumption are raised. The great dependence of the people, however, as in the adjoining nations, is their stock, a pastoral life according with their nature, and is not many removes from the primitive customs of their fathers.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES.

In addition to coal and lead, already mentioned, the mineral resources of this northern district are somewhat numerous and valuable. In different localities are found large beds of sulphuret of iron, or pyrites, which have undergone a process of oxidation, and have been converted into the sulphate, or green vitriol of commerce. This is extensively used by the Cherokee women for dyeing purposes, and is considered not inferior to that which is chemically prepared.

Salt springs are numerous, and works are carried on which supply home consumption. Petroleum occurs, and from analysis has been pronounced of good quality, but no attempts have yet been made to develop it, owing, perhaps, to the large supplies thrown upon the market from Pennsylvania. Quarries of limestone and sandstone abound, and, in consequence of their easy access, are used throughout the country for various building purposes. The immense quantities of workable stone so universally distributed have been a means of

inducing many of the Cherokees to learn the trade of stone-masons.

CANADIAN DISTRICT.

This a large scope of country, lying between the Canadian and Arkansas rivers. On the cessation of hostilities between the North and South, this part of the Nation was mainly occupied by the Southern Cherokees, so designated from the fact of their having taken part with the Southern States. The land here, as might be expected from its position between two large rivers, is mostly bottom. The soil is very rich, being composed in great part of vegetable mold. The degree of cultivation is somewhat inferior, but, in spite of all adverse circumstances, the yield of corn is generally an average of forty to fifty bushels to the acre.

Situated, however, immediately within the cotton-growing belt, it is quite likely that, with the facilities now offered by railway for quick freighting, that its dense forests will soon give way to the culture of this product. Large farms could be made here at small expense, and if other than the present system of holding lands in common was in vogue, a few years would soon give this region a different aspect than that which it now presents.

The Arkansas river is navigable to Fort Gibson, and from this point down to a point opposite Fort Smith, Arkansas, a river front is presented on the north side, while on the south side a front is presented to both rivers. The Canadian is navigable, however, only a few miles above its mouth.

It will be seen from this description that the Cherokee country, though not so broad in area as some of the other nations, nor yet possessed of so many mineral resources, is, in its agricultural qualities, not inferior; and were it not for its prohibitory laws, which, in a great measure, keep the people from making that progress they otherwise would if left to their own free choice, it would, from the impetus already given it by its geographical position, stand first as an agricultural and stock-raising region. Those beautiful flats which skirt the various streams, and those miniature valleys lying between the prairie



swells, are of immense value as farming lands; and tract after tract, vieing in fertility with the best of lands of other countries, skirt the Verdigris, the Grand, and the Caney rivers, besides, back in the interior and among the flinty hills, nature has with profusion spread her fertile plats. These features, together with natural advantages derived from river navigation, added to facilities now offered by lines of railway, should be incentives to development, and the old policy, which was prejudicial to enterprise, should no longer find place among a people so capable of advancement as the past and present have shown the Cherokees to be. In a word, they have resources without stint, which have only to be developed to increase their wealth.

#### CREEK AND SEMINOLE COUNTRY.

Occupying the middle division, between the Arkansas and Canadian rivers, are the Creek and Seminole nations. The Creek reservation is computed at 3,215,495 acres, and that of the Seminoles at 200,000.

The principal water courses which border and pass through these nations are the Arkansas, Little River, and the North and South Canadian. Each of these streams gives large scopes of bottom lands, which are unsurpassed for fertility. The timber along these streams, and generally throughout the country, is plentiful and of excellent quality. Within no country is there a more equal interspersion of prairie and woodland than in this, and, being intersected with numerous small streams at different points, it is highly desirable as an agricultural and pastoral land. The whole country, extending from 96° to 99° west, is arable, and seems, by its very nature, to invite tillers of the soil. The Creeks have no very large farms, but their productions are wheat, corn, and rice. The Canadian and Little River bottoms are wide, and the soil is a deep, mulatto mold. In the western portion is a vast deposit of gypsum, which, where it borders the Canadian, forms vast bluffs, and is the prevalent formation of a considerable area of country. The eastern one-third of the country developes very largely the carboniferous period. Fine-grained

sandstones crop out in many localities, and are of excellent quality for building purposes; besides, there are large deposits of coal in different localities.

Along the Verdigris river, and throughout the western part, the geological formation is tertiary, of the miocene period, characterized by marls, silicious matter, limestone, and sandstone, alternating with clays and gypsum. The banks of the Verdigris contain imbedded the remains of large mammals, the deposit being so great at some places that they could be taken out by the ton.

#### CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW DISTRICT.

This section of the Territory embraces the highlands and valleys lying between the Arkansas, Canadian and Red rivers, and extends in length from the western line of the State of Arkansas to the ninety-eighth degree of west longitude. Beginning near the one hundredth degree of west longitude, the high table-lands, as they extend in an easterly direction, gradually decline into a range of hills, which traverse the country nearly central from west to east, and form the great divide between the bottom lands of these rivers. Arising from the south side of this range are the large tributaries which flow into Red river, the most noted of which are the Washita, the Boggys, the Blue and the Kiametia rivers; those from the north side of the range flow into the Canadian and Arkansas. The equal and almost uniform course of these streams, running parallel with the range and the rivers into which they empty on either side, affords to the country a constant and never-failing supply of water. In view of this fact, and the peculiar composition of the soil, and mildness of climate, this district may be styled the great cotton belt of the Territory, for there is not an acre of tillable land which will not produce the average bale. It has been mentioned that the great peculiarity of the Territory is the equal interspersion of prairie and timber. Here this characteristic is beautifully represented, and gives alternately an easy and regular transition to every variety of soil, adapted to the growth of every variety of vegetables, plants and cereals. In one section we have the black, waxy

soil so universal and highly prized in Texas, and immediately adjoining it we have the black sandy loam, the rich red loam, the mulatto mold, and the yellow sandy soil. This diversity is a resource of itself of incalculable value, adapting it to the culture of articles which, when the country is fairly settled and utilized, will not inaptly entitle it to the appellation of a "Garden Spot."

Having spoken above of the natural divisions of the country by a range of hills, and the course of streams, it will, perhaps, accord better with our general plan to enter somewhat into detail. The Canadian and Arkansas rivers form the northern boundary, separating the Choctaws and Chickasaws from the Creeks and Cherokees. All south of these rivers is Choctaw and Chickasaw territory. The land bordering these streams, and running out to what we have styled the *divide*, is bottom, and second bottom. The characteristics of the soil of the first bottom are that it is porous, very deep and very rich, being composed in great part of decomposed vegetation. The Canadian river takes its rise in high, gypsum bluffs, and its waters are ever freighted with the fertilizing material which in its inundations it has been depositing for innumerable ages. Added to this is the calcareous and arenaceous matter derived from the disintegrating rocks capping the high divide. Here we see a provision of nature affording an inexhaustible supply of those chemical ingredients which have of late years come into general use as valuable fertilizers for the worn-out lands of the Eastern and Middle States. Fine belts of timber skirt the main streams and their tributaries, composed of oak, ash, walnut, hickory, pecan and cottonwood. These belts are, however, interrupted by alternations of prairie jutting in on the streams.

The soil of the second bottom on the Canadian is largely composed of mulatto mold, while that of the Arkansas is varied, no particular kind predominating over the other, partaking mostly of the qualities of the rocks that cap the high grounds of the different localities, showing conclusively that deteriorating causes have been at work for a long time, which, together with large deposits of decomposed vegetation from

the forests, has been made into a compost by the agencies of nature's laboratory, preparatory to its utility by the hand of civilization. The mulatto soil of the upper Canadian is in many places intercalated with seams of gypsum, while in isolated localities large beds are known to exist.

#### THE GYPSUM BELT,

Where it begins on the Canadian, is about fifty miles wide, being embraced, according to Capt. Marcey, U. S. A., in the degrees of  $99^{\circ}$  and  $100^{\circ}$  of west longitude. It also occurs on the middle, and north, and south forks of Red river, within the  $101^{\circ}$  and  $103^{\circ}$  of longitude, and is here about one hundred miles wide, the thickness of the deposit being from ten to fifteen feet, and varies in quality from a coarse plaster of Paris to a pure selenite. The small streams and gulches of this belt go to form, in great part, the head water-source of these main streams, and carry the detritus of this material, together with that of plants and animals, to the plains below. It will be gathered, from what we have said regarding this natural source for keeping up a supply of fertilizing material, that it is inexhaustible, and that those great drawbacks to farming will never exist here as in other countries, where large expenditures are required for artificial manures. The valley of the Canadian, as well as that bordering the Arkansas, is sparsely settled—a few isolated farms, with here and there a stock-ranche, are all that remind us that its dreary solitude has ever been broken by the march of civilized man, excepting the eastern neck adjacent to Fort Smith, Arkansas, bordering the Poetau and Arkansas rivers. Here the country is tolerably thickly settled, and many large farms are kept in a high state of cultivation, the principal productions of which are corn and cotton, the average yield of the former being from fifty to sixty bushels to the acre, that of the latter from a bale to a bale and a half.

The south side of the dividing range admits of the same classification as that lying north—viz., bottom and second bottom, but differing in respect to variety of soil, growth of timber, and number of water courses. Commencing with the

"Leased Country," a strip lying between the 98° and 100° of west longitude, ceded to the United States by the Choctaws and Chickasaws, in 1866, the present home of the Comanches, Arrapahoes, Wichitas, and Kiowas. The timber here is confined to the banks of the streams, and is composed of cottonwood only. The soil is porous, and would be very productive for small grain and cotton. It supports a heavy growth of luxuriant grass, and is the spring and fall range of the vast herds of buffalo while in transit to and from the State of Texas. Here, isolated from any similiar surroundings, rising from the naked plains, are

#### THE WICHITA MOUNTAINS,

forming vast peaks of flesh-colored granite, several hundred feet high, running through which are veins of quartz and porphyry. From this range of mountains rise many springs of pure, fresh water. Otter Creek, an affluent of Red river, rises from this range; its banks and bed are strewn with quartz and porphyry, and here have been found several specimens of gold. The author has seen one specimen, weighing half an ounce, which was taken from the bed of this creek. Copper ore is found in many localities, sometimes in seams in the sandstone, and at others in detached pieces, with the debris of granite, iron nodules, and scoriaceous rocks strewn over the surface. This country, however, with that portion of the Choctaw and Chickasaw proper, reaching to Forts Sill and Arbuckle, is as yet comparatively a *terra incognita*.

It has suited the purpose of the author to begin at this western limit and approach the borders of civilization, rather than the reverse order, mainly that the geological features might be embodied with the descriptive. The disturbing forces which caused the upheaval of the Wichita Mountains, in the centre of a vast plain, also exerted their influence in causing the peculiar formation extending through the Chickasaw and Choctaw country to the Hot Springs in Arkansas, being analogous to that exhibited in the States of Alabama and Georgia.

Beaver Creek, Otter Creek, Cache Creek, and Wichita

river are all affluents of Red river. The valleys and low, flat plains of this upper region are extremely fertile, the soil being a dark loam, intercalated with gypsum and disintegrated granite. A great peculiarity of this

#### GRANITE BELT

is, that it forms the surface rock the whole length of the country, and ranges in width from ten to twenty miles, dipping in different places to give place to formations belonging to the carboniferous and cretaceous periods. It is accompanied by iron-stone and gray silicious sandstone, which seem to have been exposed to a very high degree of heat. What may have been the extent of this granite formation can only be guessed, when we find it in a state of rapid degradation, but still capping the ridges to the height of one and two hundred feet, and strewn over the plain in huge boulders of many tons' weight. The soil composed of this material is coarse and porous, and is equal in productiveness to the valleys and bottoms skirting the rivers.

The country bordering the Washita river, in the immediate vicinity of the Cross Timbers, is low and flat, and bears the same character of topography for many miles, which being a favorite resort of the Kickapoo Indians, has obtained the name of

#### KICKAPOO FLATS.

The soil here is very dark, and averages about two feet in depth, and denotes fertility by a heavy growth of grass. The timber on the Washita is good, that of the Cross Timbers is low and scrubby. Here begins the Chickasaw settlements, composed mostly of stock ranches, having from a few hundred to several thousand head of cattle. A few miles below these, and south of the Washita, comprising many thousand acres, is

#### PAUL'S VALLEY,

Justly celebrated for its fertility and large farms. Smith Paul, the gentleman from whom the valley takes its name, has a farm of sixteen hundred acres. In close proximity to his are many others of fifty, one and two hundred acres, all of which belong to natives, but are mostly cultivated by whites. The

products of this valley are corn, wheat and cotton. The corn supply of Forts Sill and Arbuckle has been drawn from this region since 1866; besides, it has furnished many thousand bushels to the interior of the country. The yield of wheat for this year (1873), being the first ever sown, was twenty-eight bushels to the acre. No cotton has been planted until this year, and as it has not yet come into market the yield is not known. Several hundred acres were planted, however, and prospects are good enough to justify the erection of several gins. From this point down to the confluence of this river with the Red, the bottom is from four to eight miles wide, and the soil is of the same characteristic red loam. The timber is a heavy growth of wild china, oak, ash, pecan, hickory, cottonwood and walnut. There are a good many settlements on this stream, but the farms are small, and the thrift and enterprise of the people are very mediocre, compared with those higher up the valley.

A short distance above Paul's Valley, in the red clay, is an extensive deposit of green copper ore, accompanied with dark, feruginous sandstone. The geology of the region lying south of the Washita, and bordering the Red river, partakes both of the carboniferous and cretaceous formations, as determined by fossils peculiar to each. South of Fort Arbuckle, pursuing a south southeast course to within a few miles of the mouth of the Washita, rises a high range of hills, capped with limestone, with a sandstone base, interrupted occasionally by vast protrusions of granite and other igneous rocks. As usual, this granite is of a red color, and is crossed with veins of quartz, exhibiting minute veins of gold, and is everywhere accompanied with feruginous sand, agate and iron nodules. Along these ridges, and in many places on the low grounds, especially in the neighborhood of the oil region, are found great quantities of silicified wood. The silicious sandstone exhibited in this section is a very compact and durable stone, and crops out in some places specimens of that beautiful variety known as *novaculite*, so extensively used for making whetstones.

#### ROCK OIL, OR PETROLEUM.

This substance abounds in many parts of the Territory,

flowing to the surface through crevices of various rocks. It is of a thick, yellowish green color, and will at some future day be of commercial value as a lubricating oil.

The deposit in this locality is the most extensive and important in the Territory. The surface indications at Gov. Colbert's, about fifteen miles southwest of Tishomingo, indicate that a large deposit may exist. The oil flows to the surface through shale and crevices in silicious sandstone.

Some two years ago this region was visited by some Virginia gentlemen, who thought favorably of the surface indications, and at once proceeded to organize a company, composed of St. Louis capitalists and Chickasaw citizens, under the name of "Chickasaw Oil Company;" but owing to a law of the Chickasaw Nation, prohibiting a lease of lands, nothing was done toward development, and excitement on the subject quieted down. Recently, however, a new company has been formed by the same parties, and the name changed to "Oklahoma Mining Company."

This company has now a well in process of boring. The depth attained is about four hundred feet. The slate and shale passed through are found to be completely saturated with oil, and prospects are favorable for a large supply. In different localities, especially where limestone forms the surface rock, it exudes from the ground in the form of *maltha* or *mineral tar*, and forms extensive incrustations of *asphaltum*. The country surrounding this oil region presents the appearance of having been subjected to considerable convulsive disturbances. The hills are mostly cone-shaped, and break off very abruptly into vast perpendicular walls of compact non-fossiliferous limestone, slate, and silicious sandstone. In some localities the sandstone stands upon edge, and is crisped and fissured, and seems to have been brought to a stand-still while in a state of oscillation, while large nodules of iron ore, having the appearance of slag, are strewn over the surface.

About ten miles southeast of Colbert's the oil-stone is abruptly broken off, huge boulders of granite taking its place. This is of a red kind, and is composed principally of quartz



and mica. South of this boulder irruption the country changes, and the oil-stone, accompanied with shale and limestone, again makes its appearance. Along the Washita and Red river the oil reaches the surface through the medium of springs. These, together with those at Colbert's, are much resorted to during the heated season by the people of Texas, for pleasure and for the medicinal qualities of the waters, which contain, with the oil, both iron and sulphur.

PICKENS COUNTY,

Lying between the Washita and Red river, is confessedly the stock and farming region of the Chickasaw Nation. With the exception of the high ridge, described in the preceding page, this county is low in its topographical character. The soil is generally a rich alluvium, made up of gypseous particles and other disintegrations from the high regions above. The population of this county is very small compared with its area, yet the people are enterprising, and pride themselves in having large farms—the majority have from two to six hundred acres in cultivation. The principal products are corn and cotton. The highest prize offered for Indian cotton by the St. Louis Fair Association was awarded to the citizens of this county in 1872. It is estimated that the amount of land in actual cultivation would not fall below twenty thousand acres. The land below the mouth of the Washita, embraced in Panola county, is similar in productiveness and general character to that of Pickens, and so on through the Choctaw Nation bordering the Red river. The timber, however, as we descend, extends its growth over a large area of country, and improves in quality as well as kind. Those growths, not heretofore enumerated, being cedar, pine cypress, and sugar maple.

In delineating the character of different sections, I have endeavored to be as explicit as possible, by designating each by some particular landmark peculiar to the locality, and in the general description I have given in outline the most characteristic of geological features. There yet remains, however, a large portion of country which, though largely developing the carboniferous and cretaceous periods, is so peculiar in its

abrupt transitions to other irruptions of rocks of still older ages as to require separate notice. I might, in a general geological description, have characterized the country as belonging to the carboniferous, interrupted at various points by protrusions of other formations, both palaeozoic and igneous; but a scope of country so large as that which I shall describe, east and west of Caddo, a town situated on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, certainly deserves to be designated as a separate formation. To the west of this town it extends about thirty miles, and to the east about one hundred, with an average width of twenty-five. This is cretaceous, and is very rich in its fossil remains. The soil is the black waxy, and supports a heavy growth of grass and wax-weed. The limestone exhibits itself in several varieties on the Blue, and in the region around old Fort Washita it is composed of an agglutination of *gryphea*, constituting the *gryphitenkalk* of the Germans. In other places it lies in horizontal strata, and is a bluish gray variety, and emits a bituminous odor when struck with a hammer. This is a very compact and durable stone, and may be used for flagging and other purposes. The great characteristic of the formations throughout this country, however, are the vast boulders which are everywhere exemplified, varying from rolls of a few pounds' weight to blocks of tons. The characteristic fossils are *gryphea*, *cardium porulosum*, various species of *spatangus*, *belemnites*, *ammonites*, *terebratula*, *diademina*, *pectens*, *encrinites*, *spirifers*, and *plicatula*.

Occupying a scope of country lying between Blue river and Clear Boggy, at a point six miles northwest of Boggy Depot, is a long ridge, extending to the source of the above-mentioned streams, characterized by its abrupt transition from the granite belt to sandstone and limestone of a highly crystalline texture, alternating with variegated slates. This formation seems to illustrate perfectly the Transition Formation of the older geologists, exhibiting, with the exception of *trilobites*, all the varieties of fossil shells peculiar to the Cambrian, Silurian and Devonian systems, such as lithuities, *orthis orbicularis*, *productus*, *spirifer*, *lesebratula*, and *polyparia*, of the genus *cyathophyllum* and *catenipora*.

The granite belt, of which we have frequently spoken, dips, near Boggy Depot, to give place to that extensive area which we have designated cretaceous. At the point where this dip is made, rocks of the permian group abut against the granite and cretaceous. Here, flowing from the base of the granite, are several salt springs; immediately surrounding are cone-shaped hills of iron ore. This ore resembles clinkers or slag, and exhibits a bright metallic lustre when broken.

The larger area of the country belongs to the carboniferous or coal-bearing limestone. The universal distribution of this stone throughout the country renders it a valuable resource, both as a building material and for making lime. The great interest which, however, attaches to this region are the extensive

#### COAL FIELDS,

which, no doubt, are co-extensive with those of Iowa and Missouri. There are out-crops in the Cherokee and Creek country, but they are not so numerous as in the Choctaw Nation. It may be that the coal deposit is quite as extensive there as here, but, if so, it must lie at some depth below the surface. The local disturbances which everywhere seem to have been active throughout the coal period, as is exhibited in the Choctaw Nation, has brought it to the surface, and it is found laid bare in the prairies, as well as in the banks of streams and high bluffs. The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, immediately after it crosses the South Canadian river, cuts through a vast coal field the whole breadth of the Choctaw Nation. Several mines are now being worked at different points on this road, the veins averaging from two to seven feet in thickness. The coal is of a heavy, bituminous quality, and when burned makes but very little clinker. Overlying the coal is generally found a stratum of clay or slate, of about a foot in thickness; underlying the vein we again come to slate, and it is very probable that beneath this second stratum a greater deposit will be found, and of still better quality. The coal region of the Choctaw Nation comprises an area about fifty miles wide by one hundred in length.

## LEAD ORE.

Throughout the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, in the hilly regions, are out-croppings of lead ore. South of Fort Arbuckle a very good quality of ore is found in the limestone ridges. Near Stonewall, in the vicinity of the Canadian, an argentiferous galena accompanies the quartz and sandstone. In the centre of the Choctaw country it is found in ridges of blue limestone, and farther east the surface indications are very extensive for a very pure galena, which can be melted in a common ladle as easy as bar lead, and is extensively used by hunters for making bullets. Still farther east, bordering the Arkansas line, where the mountains rise to a considerable height, and where the formation is principally quartzose sandstone, argentiferous galena is very plentiful, and will probably pay the working for the silver it contains.

## EXTENSIVE COAL BASIN.

Having occasionally made mention of deposits of coal in several localities, it may not be out of place to give a more extended description of the vast area which these deposits underly, especially when we note the rapid extension of the railway system in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas—States which respectively form the northern, southern and eastern boundaries of the Territory, each of which have railways in process of building, converging to as many different points in the Territory, striving to avail themselves of treaty stipulations providing for lines through the different Indian Nations, it being universally known that the Cherokees, Creeks and Choctaws have each given permission for right-of-way for roads running east and west and north and south.

The completion of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas road has fulfilled the stipulations relative to the line running north and south, as it cuts through the Territory of all the above-mentioned tribes; but those for east and west lines provide for two roads—one entering the northeast corner of the Territory, which is the Atlantic and Pacific, already in process of building, and running to Vinita in the Cherokee Nation. This

road has also a branch in contemplation which will pass through the northwestern counties of Arkansas and enter the Choctaw Nation south of the Arkansas river near Fort Smith, continuing in a southerly course to Paris, Texas. Another road from Little Rock will enter Fort Smith and strike across the Choctaw Nation from east to west, south of the main Canadian river. This network of railways will intersect at different points a region of country which has hitherto been of difficult approach, and consequently little known. A knowledge of the out-cropping of coal in various sections of this immense region has long been known to the Indians, but as they had no means of utilizing it, it has remained a resource of no importance. An idea has been prevalent among scientific men, to whom a knowledge of its existence has become known, that the deposit was simply tertiary, inferior in quality, and of no commercial value; but in thus hazarding an opinion without personal observation they have committed a grave error, or have done so to divert attention from it, for in no country is the carboniferous age more perfectly developed than the surroundings of this basin. Every fossil and every rock which is found is indicative of the true coal period.

Following the course of the true coal, as laid down in geological surveys of the States of Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas, we find, as we approach the borders of the State of Arkansas and the Indian Territory, that the physical indications, instead of gently breaking off, abruptly increase, forming extensive mountain ranges, composed of blue and gray limestone, and quartzose sandstone, giving outcrop to beds of iron ore, lead and coal, the same physical configuration being continued to the Red river, with the single exception of the protrusion of the granite belt, and the dip to give place to the cretaceous strip elsewhere mentioned.

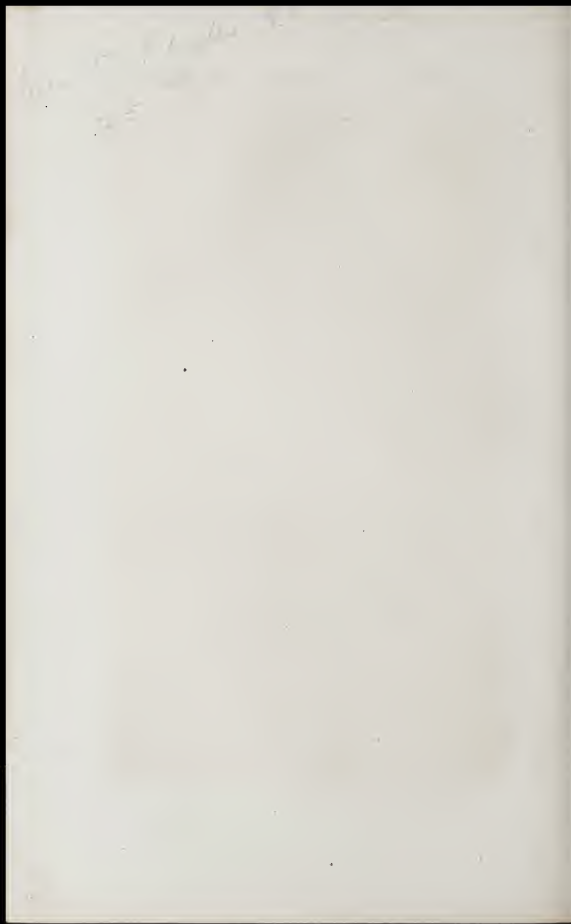
Occupying the western one-third of Arkapsas and the eastern one-third of the Indian Territory, we have a coal basin not less than two hundred miles in length by one hundred and fifty in width, which, when railway connection is made, will supply the States and cities on either side of the Lower

Mississippi, besides the greater portion of central and north-western Texas.

When we look at the immense area of the State of Texas alone, embracing 237,321 square miles, and capable, by its agricultural and stock resources, of supporting a dense population, yet almost wholly barren of carboniferous material, we can form an idea of the immense value of this vast storehouse of coal lying upon its northwestern border, already made available by railway connection, which, when the trade is fairly opened up, can be supplied by car loads.

This basin includes the whole area of what is now the Choctaw Nation proper, in every part of which there are extensive outcrops of coal, the veins ranging from two to seven feet in thickness.







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PROTEST

OF THE

CHEROKEE NATION

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AGAINST A

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

"The white man's treatment of the Indian is one of the great sins of civilization, for which no single generation or nation is wholly answerable, but which it is now too late to redress. Repentance is all that is left for us; restitution is impossible. But the harsh treatment of the race by former generations should not be considered a precedent to justify the infliction of further wrongs."—*Report of Senate Committee on Judiciary, Dec. 14, 1870.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 30, 1871.

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